

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an operation panel which receives instruction to automatic edit processing of a plurality of photographic images;

a scanner unit which scans said plurality of photographic images and which outputs image information in accordance with the instruction of the automatic edit processing of said operation panel;

an extracting unit which extracts a position and a size of each of said plurality of photographic images on the basis of the image information output from said scanner unit in accordance with the instruction of said automatic edit processing;

an image editing unit which outputs an edit image, in which said plurality of photographic images are laid out within a predetermined layout, on the basis of the position and the size of each of said plurality of photographic images detected by said extracting unit in accordance with the instruction of said automatic edit processing; and

a printer unit which is provided with the edit image from said image editing unit and which forms an image on an image forming medium on the basis of the supplied edit image,

wherein said image editing unit enlarges or reduces the image information of said photographic image in accordance with said predetermined layout,

wherein said image editing unit enlarges or reduces the image information of said photographic image in association with the layout selected and designated by said operation panel,

wherein said image editing unit adds image information of an illustration in addition to the image information of said photographic image and which outputs the edit image, in which said plurality of photographic images are laid out within the predetermined layout, and

wherein said image editing unit automatically detects inclination of the image information of said plurality of photographic images to correct the inclination.

Claims 7 – 15 (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:
- an instructing step which receives instruction of automatic edit processing of a plurality of photographic images;
 - a scan step which scans said plurality of photographic images and which outputs image information in accordance with the instruction of the automatic edit processing at said instructing step;
 - an extracting step which extracts a position and a size of each of said plurality of photographic images on the basis of the image information output at said scan step in accordance with the instruction of said automatic edit processing;
 - an image editing step which outputs an edit image, in which plurality of photographic images are laid out within a predetermined layout, on the basis of the position and the size of each of said plurality of photographic images detected at said extracting step in accordance with the instruction of said automatic edit processing; and
 - a printing step which is supplied the edit image from said image editing step and forms the image on the image forming medium on the basis of the supplied edit image,
- wherein said image editing step enlarges or reduces the image information of said photographic image in accordance with said predetermined layout,
- wherein said image editing step enlarges or reduces the image information of said photographic image with associating the image information of said photographic image with the layout selected and designated at said instructing step,
- wherein said image editing step adds image information of an illustration in addition to the image information of said photographic image and which outputs the edit image, in which said plurality of photographic images are laid out within the predetermined layout, and
- wherein said image editing step automatically detects inclination of the image information of said plurality of photographic images to correct the inclination.

Claims 17 – 20 (Canceled).

21. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the inclination is adjusted using an affine conversion.

22. (New) An image forming method according to claim 16, wherein the inclination is adjusted using an affine conversion.